

Here is a statement from EPA that we are sending to media in response to inquiries on this topic (just as an fyi for you):



July 13, 2016

Statement from EPA Region 2 on Radioactive Sites in Niagara County, NY

The United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 has been investigating potential contamination in the soils associated with three properties located in Niagara County since the fall of 2013. They include a residential area on a private driveway in the Town of Lewiston, NY; a cemetery access road and undeveloped property associated with the Holy Trinity Cemetery in the Town of Lewiston, NY, and a bowling alley/wholesale building materials property on Niagara Falls Boulevard, Niagara Falls, NY.

The sites were originally referred to EPA Region 2 by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Department of Health in 2013. EPA conducted pre-remedial assessment activities to determine if these sites would qualify for placement on EPA's National Priorities List Superfund. Those assessments indicated that none of the sites would be eligible for inclusion in the federal Superfund program. However, two of the three sites (the cemetery and bowling alley/wholesale building materials property) did qualify for further assessment by the EPA, because testing suggested that exposures to elevated levels of contamination could occur.

In the summer of 2015, EPA performed a gamma radiation survey of the two locations. The occupied interior space of the bowling alley was found not to be contaminated. At the Niagara Falls Boulevard site, EPA collected soil samples and detected elevated gamma radiation levels in several areas within an unoccupied portion of the supply building. EPA conducted further samples at the Niagara Falls Boulevard location and is planning to remove contaminated soils under portions of the supply building and from the surrounding parking lots.

EPA fenced off the vacant areas at the cemetery and is awaiting test results. New York State refers radioactive sites to EPA for review. EPA remains committed to working with the State of New York on additional sites that warrant attention.